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AN UNDESCRIBED RACE OF THE MANGROVE
WARBLER FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA,
MEXICO

BY

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In April, 1927, Laurence M. Huey collected a series of nine breeding Mangrove Warblers at San Ignacio and Pond lagoons on the west coast of central Baja California. The locality (Lat. 27° N) is the northernmost point at which mangroves (*Rhizophora*) occur on the Pacific coast and is the only one known north of the extensive "manglares" at Magdalena Bay where this ecologically restricted warbler is to be found. A description of these isolated lagoons has been written by Huey (Condor, 29, 1927: 239-243) and they need not be further discussed here.

Although the specimens referred to have been recorded by the collector and later cited by Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Pub. Zool., 32, 1928: 199), their taxonomic status had never been determined until I recently had the opportunity to do so when investigating the Baja California collections at the Natural History Museum. They are quite distinct from *Dendroica erithachorides castaneiceps* of the southern and eastern portions of the peninsula and are described below. In the bestowal of a formal name I am mindful not only of a long and friendly association but also of Mr. Huey's generosity in communicating to me much of his extensive knowledge of the distribution of birds in Baja California.

***Dendroica erithachorides hueyi* new subspecies**

SAN IGNACIO MANGROVE WARBLER

Type.—Breeding male adult, number 11471, San Diego Society of Natural History; San Ignacio Lagoon, Pacific coast of Baja California, April 18, 1927; collected by Laurence M. Huey.

Subspecific characters.—Most nearly similar to *Dendroica erithachorides castaneiceps* Ridgway of southern Baja California and resembling that race in relatively large size, restriction of yellow on inner webs of rectrices, and obscure or obsolescent ventral streaking of adult males. It differs from *castaneiceps*, however, in decidedly darker and more olive (less yellowish) green coloration of the upper parts, and still further restriction of yellow on inner webs of rectrices.

Range.—San Ignacio and Pond lagoons on the Pacific coast of central Baja California.

Remarks.—The specific name *erithachorides* is used only after some consideration. I am well aware that current concept favors the consolidation of the three closely related groups, the Yellow Warblers (*aestiva*), the Golden Warblers (*petechia*), and the Mangrove Warblers (*erithachorides*) under the single specific name of *petechia*. But it seems to me that what is perhaps only fortuitous overlap of *some* characters has been overemphasized and, conversely, that more basic differences including rigidly restricted environment (during the breeding season at least) have correspondingly been minimized.

Whether or not the Mangrove Warblers which breed northerly in Sonora and Baja California are migratory is a moot question. The weight of evidence at this time is that such is the case. There is the comment by Frazar (Brewster, Birds of the Cape Region, 1902, p. 182), of a slight seasonal fluctuation in numbers at La Paz. More definite is the observation by Bancroft (Condor, 32, 1930: 42), of the "appearance, in migration, in early May" at San Lucas (27° 14'), the most northerly point of occurrence on the Gulf side of the peninsula. Finally, there is my own field experience which has failed to find the species at all during the winter months of December to mid-March in Sonora, and the detection of but a single individual at Concepción Bay on the Gulf coast of Baja California in January, 1932. I believe from this evidence, which is perhaps indicative rather than conclusive, that it is reasonable to suppose a withdrawal from the most northerly areas in winter.

Among the 78 specimens examined from the range of *castaneiceps* there is one individual, a female (13533 Dickey Coll.), taken at La Paz on October 2, 1923, which has the characters of *hueyi* in such positive degree that it cannot be included in the known range of variability (which is considerable) of female *castaneiceps*. On this basis I tentatively include La Paz as within the dispersal range of *hueyi*. Further evidence would be desirable, but in view of the limited breeding range and consequent numerical rarity of *hueyi* its detection in localities where *castaneiceps* is common is pretty much a matter of chance. To make sure that the type of *castaneiceps* might not be such a specimen I submitted two

of the San Ignacio males to Dr. Alexander Wetmore. He informs me that the type (89940 U. S. Nat. Mus.), an adult male collected at La Paz, December 16, 1882, by Lyman Belding, is representative of the population resident at La Paz.

The breeding ranges of the three races of the Mangrove Warbler which occur in the Gulf area are summarized here. Distribution is not continuous but is restricted to estuaries, bays, and shores where an adequate growth of mangroves occurs.

***Dendroica erithachorides rhizophorae* van Rossem**
SONORA MANGROVE WARBLER

DENDROICA ERITHACHORIDES RHIZOPHORAE van Rossem, Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 8, No. 10: 67-68, August 24, 1935. (Tóbari Bay, Sonora, México). Coasts of Nayarit (*vide* Wetmore), Sinaloa, and Sonora, north to Tepopa Bay at lat. $29^{\circ} 18' N$.

***Dendroica erithachorides castaneiceps* Ridgway**
LA PAZ MANGROVE WARBLER

DENDROICA BRYANTI CASTANEICEPS Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 8, No. 22: 350, Sept. 2 [Sept. 17], 1885. (La Paz, Lower California, [México]). Coasts of Baja California, north on the Gulf to San Lucas, lat. $27^{\circ} 14' N$, and on the Pacific to Magdalena Bay and San Jorge, lat. $25^{\circ} 45' N$.

***Dendroica erithachorides hueyi* van Rossem**
SAN IGNACIO MANGROVE WARBLER

Pacific coast of central Baja California at San Ignacio and Pond lagoons, lat. $27^{\circ} N$.

Specimens examined.—*rhizophorae*, 29 from Sinaloa (Mazatlán) 4, and Sonora (Agiabampo; Tóbari Bay; Guaymas; Kino Bay; Tepopa Bay), 25. *castaneiceps*, 78 from Baja California (La Paz; San José Island; Espíritu Santo Island; Concepción Bay; San Lucas at $27^{\circ} 14' N$; Magdalena Bay, including Santa Margarita Island, Santa Magdalena Island, and San Jorge). *hueyi*, 10 from Baja California (San Ignacio Lagoon, 6; Pond Lagoon, 3; La Paz, 1).

I am indebted to the Curators at the Chicago Natural History Museum, the Los Angeles Museum, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (Berkeley), the Museum of Zoology (Ann Arbor), and the Natural History Museum (San Diego) for use of the material under their care, and to Laurence M. Huey and Max M. Peet for the privilege of inspecting their private collections.

